

What is claimed is:

1. A method for validating a user's signature on a transaction at a point of sale with said user using a typical payment card, said method comprising the steps of:

5        signing the signature block of the payment card by the user;

      recording the written signature of said user at the point of sale;

      comparing the written signature of said user at the point of sale to the written signature of said user on the signature block of the payment card that was signed by said user at an earlier point in time;

10       notifying a sales associate at the point of sale whether the compared signatures of said user meets a predetermined criteria such the transaction is permitted to be completed wherein said transaction is duly recorded.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

      communicating the transaction to a distant location via a predetermined  
15    contact telecommunication method specified by the user.

3. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of:

      destroying any paper traces of the transaction once the transaction has been completed and recorded.

4. The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of:

sending a signal to the sales associate to request additional identification by the user if the signature comparison does not meet predetermined criteria.

5. The method of claim 3 further comprising the step of:

5 sending a signal to the sales associate to confiscate the payment card if the payment card has been reported as being lost or stolen.

6. The method of claim 2 wherein said predetermined contact telecommunication method is email.

7. The method of claim 2 wherein said predetermined contact  
10 telecommunication method is mobile telephone.

8. The method of claim 2 wherein said predetermined contact telecommunication method cannot be changed at the point of sale.

9. The method of claim 2 wherein said predetermined contact telecommunication method can be changed at the point of sale.

15 10. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of:

electronically providing the user with a copy of the transaction via said predetermined contact telecommunication method.

11. The method of claim of claim 2 wherein the signature block of the payment is adapted to record a predetermined contact telecommunication method that overrides any previously submitted contact telecommunication method.

5           12. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of transmitting transaction information to an electronic journal via said predetermined contact telecommunication method such that the user can determine if unauthorized transactions are being recorded on said user's payment card.